

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-49. (canceled)

50. (currently amended) A method of identifying a molecule that specifically binds to a ligand that is differentially expressed in cardiac hypertrophy tissue relative to normal cardiac tissue, wherein the ligand selected from the group consisting of ~~acomprises a protein having at least 95% identity to a polypeptide sequence encoded by SEQ ID NO:9, a fragment of the protein comprising a domain of the protein, or and a nucleic acid encoding the protein or fragment selected from the group consisting of CH-1, CH-2, CH-3, CH-4, CH-5, CH-6, CH-7, CH-8 and CH-9 comprising SEQ ID NO:9, the method comprising:~~

- a) contacting said ligand in vitro with a plurality of molecules under conditions conducive to binding between said ligand and said molecules; and
- b) identifying a molecule within said plurality that specifically binds to said ligand.

51. (currently amended) A method of identifying an inhibitor of a candidate agent that inhibits CHAG gene expression, comprising contacting ~~a nucleic acid selected from the group consisting of a~~ an isolated cell comprising a CHAG polynucleotide sequence encoding a protein having at least 95% identity to a polypeptide encoded by ~~comprising SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:8 or SEQ ID NO:9 with a candidate agent~~ an antisense nucleic acid and determining whether the ~~candidate agent~~ antisense nucleic acid inhibits expression of the CHAG polynucleotide.

52. (canceled)

53. (currently amended) The method of claim 51 ~~52~~, wherein that antisense nucleic acid is selected from the group consisting of a catalytic RNA, a ribozyme, an antisense RNA, and a chimeric RNA-DNA analogue.

54-62. (canceled)

63. (currently amended) The method of claim 51, wherein determining whether the ~~candidate agent~~ antisense nucleic acid inhibits expression of the CHAG polynucleotide comprises detecting expression of the CHAG polynucleotide using PCR, northern or southern blot in the presence or absence of the ~~candidate compound~~ antisense nucleic acid.

64. (canceled)

65. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~64~~51, wherein the cell is selected from the group consisting of cultured myocytes, isolated papillary muscles, skinned fibers, and beating or arrested isolated perfused heart tissue subjected to pressure and volume-loading conditions.

66. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~65~~51, wherein the cell is a cultured myocyte.

67. (new) The method of claim 51, wherein the CHAG polynucleotide comprises SEQ ID NO:9.